



There's still time to get the seasonal flu shot! Although influenza activity has declined recently, it still may continue for several months.¹ The Centers for Disease Control continues to recommend that patients and health care providers and caregivers be vaccinated against seasonal influenza.

CMS encourages health care providers to use each office visit as an opportunity to talk with Medicare your patients about the importance of getting a seasonal flu shot. And remember, it is also important to immunize yourself and your staff.

Remember – Seasonal influenza vaccinations and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs.

For information about Medicare's coverage of the seasonal influenza virus vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website. You will find a variety of resources that explain Medicare coverage and claims submission policies related to the seasonal influenza vaccine.

For information on Medicare policies related to H1N1 influenza, please go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1> on the CMS website.

¹ *Seasonal Influenza (Flu)*. [online]. Atlanta, GA: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 19, 2010 [cited 21 January 2010]. Available from the World Wide Web: (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>)